



CLUB REPEATERS

VE3TBR
Phone: 807-767-7661
Listen: 146.820 MHz
Txmit: 146.220 MHz
Listen: 444.825 MHz
Txmit: 449.825 MHz

VE3YQT
Phone: 807-767-5492
Listen: 147.060 MHz
Txmit: 146.460 MHz

VA3OLA
Listen: 53.050 MHz
Txmit: 52.050 MHz

VE3BGA
Listen: 145.450 MHz
Txmit: 144.850 MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 9:30 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant

2m MINI-NET
Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT Repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m. Room 214
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

SHORTWAVES

This is the last issue till September. It's time for everyone to take a break and shake off last winter. Time to start spring cleaning, yard and housework and, of course, tower construction and antenna work!

Len, VA3LEB has put a download link to the Adobe Acrobat® reader on the club's Internet home page. You can now download the PDF (portable document file) version of *HI-Q* from there, too. The DOS version of the reader leaves a little to be desired but the Mac and Windows versions are superb. I've had good reports from those who received the PDF file via email. I see the day when every publisher will use the PDF standard on the Internet to distribute magazines and periodicals.

Build any good kits lately? Ten-Tec's latest kit catalogue has a new 2 metre to 6 metre transverter kit. Now, you can use your HT on 2 and 6 FM or any mode that your 2m radio supports! It's \$95 U.S. as a kit or \$159 U.S. built and tested. A 5/8th wavelength 2m antenna is a quarter-wave on 6m. One antenna, work 2 bands! The range of the 6m transverter is 50 to 54 MHz corresponding to 144 to 148 MHz on 2m.

Rob, VE3FLB, built the HF to 6 version of the transverter. It looks like a commercial product and I was impressed by the circuit board and overall small package size. Rob did a great job putting it together, including hand winding the small coils. Now, if he would only get that missing screw from Ten-Tec... Rob builds kit and collects neat "stuff"—a real ham among hams.

Field Day, 1996, will be held at Hawkeye Lake, at the summer camp of Ian, VA3RIM ~~the last weekend~~ in June. For VHFers this is a great opportunity to work some HF and maybe try out your slow speed CW. Ian has made signs and a map.

Industry Canada is relinquishing its control over amateur radio services. In a few years, RAC, through ARAS, will allow hams to dictate how things will shape up in the 21st century. I'd like to see RAC or ARRL membership mandatory for all hams. Most licensed trades require that you belong to the appropriate governing board since that board works for the benefit of all, not just a few. This would provide the funds, respectability and true representation by our respective national organizations.—Ed.

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Founding President
P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

Senate

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: T. Stewardson, VE3TKA	577-9439
Vice Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW	622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC	577-9316
Treasurer: 'Skip' Wright, VE3BBS	767-2307
Directors: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM	577-1628
Dave Horne, VA3DVE	344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB	473-5482
John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
Mem.Sec: John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
Past Pres: Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK	345-5856
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM	344-7731

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., an Ontario registered non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in issues of *HI-Q* are those of the author. The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or the information submitted.

Material in *HI-Q* may be copied for non-profit use provided that credit is given to the source. Contributions related to amateur radio, especially those articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged. Material can be submitted in WordPerfect® format or as a text file or via fax to: 807-345-2688 or via packet radio to: VA3ROM@VE3TKA or voice mail on the VE3TBR repeater to user 159 or via Email to: bmazur@olm.com. Send material or dated announcements no later than the 20th of the month in which it is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, advertising at the following per issued rates is accepted: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in *HI-Q* does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service by the LARC.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: regular—\$30.00, associate—\$20.00, associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. *HI-Q* is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

Please send all club correspondence to the following address: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

Internet Home Page

The LARC has an Internet web site home page that is sponsored by Len, VA3LEB. The Internet address is: <http://www.foxnet.net/larc>. Stop by for a visit and get your *HI-Q* electronically.

Camp 807

The Amateur Radio Society of Dryden, PO Box 368, Dryden, Ontario, P8N 2Z1.

Dear Fellow Hams:

Dryden Amateur Radio Society is hosting camp 807/96 and would like to extend an invitation to all your membership. Everything is progressing very well and we hope you can include us in your summer plans.

It will take place the weekend of August 2nd, 3rd and 4th at Birchland Trailer Park, two miles west of Dryden on Hwy 17. Birchland has everything you could want including complete hookup and indoor washrooms and showers. The proprietors are very responsive to our needs and are supplying a shelter for the fleamarket and BBQ equipment. Their rates are from \$14 for no hookup to \$16 for full hookup.

Friday, August 2nd will be registration and socializing. Talk in will be 147.24+ and conducted by Roy Orvis, VE3BJD who is celebrating 50 years in ham radio this year. More detailed info on the weekend schedule will be available at this time. Saturday supper will be BBQ steaks so bring appetites and your wallet.

Here are some prices and contact number for some local hotel/motels for those who are not camping.

Hotel/Motel	Rate Phone	Starting (double occ)
Best Western	223-3201	\$74.95
Town/Country	263-0183	\$54.00
Comfort Inn	223-3893	\$75.99
Hide away	223-5329	\$45.00
Patricia Inn	223-3291	\$50.40

If you have any questions please contact either of the people below
VA3WGB packet @VE3EEX,
internet is whirnie@moosenet.net or
phone at 807-937-5822.

VA3RGA packet @ve3eex, or phone 807-937- 5721

For registering send your correspondence to the address above. Registration they need:

Call/Name/Address/Number in party/Do you require a campsite? (Yes)(No).

Each registration must include \$8.00 for each person who is attending and partaking of the meal.

Skip, VE3BBS has the registration forms and map to the site. He will have some of these at the June meeting. You can also obtain them from T&S Radio Electronics across from Five Mile School at the Dawson Rd. Store.

Internet Hot Sites

Check out the Radio Shack site at: www.tandy.com and get detailed information on your Radio Shack products including amateur radio gear. (Tnx to Andy, VE3INI).

Check out the New Jersey ARC site at: <http://user.itl.net/~equinox/> and get VHF (including 6m) propagation, forecasts, software, radio modifications, plus lots of other neat stuff!

Meeting Minutes

by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 214 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on May 9, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 40 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started with a round-table of those in attendance introducing themselves.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held April 11, 1996 were published in detail in the May edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Correspondence: none

Treasurer's Report:

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1996 financial statement as follows:

Balance as of April 11, 1996:

\$2,588.15

Expenses: 903.39

Income: 296.75

Balance as of May 9, 1996:

\$1,981.51

Outstanding Invoices (Call Books): \$423.45

Motion: moved by VE3NPS, Nestor Procup and seconded by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen that the

Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

President's Report VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson

Upsala Repeater: the duplexers will cost the Club \$600.00 if it is determined that they will meet our needs for the Upsala site.

Grand Marais Link: it appears that the Grand Marais repeater is up and running again putting a good signal into Thunder Bay. Radios for the link are ready and will be installed as soon as possible.

Old Business:

Club Incorporation: the Secretary contacted the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Companies Branch and was told our incorporation was in good standing. Notice of change papers were filed to show the Memorial Avenue address as the official address of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

Seminars: have started. The sessions on the Internet have been completed and it was pointed out that the teacher (VA3GD) is now on the redundant list. One session on test equipment has been completed and the remaining seminars are in the planning stage.

Call Sign Plaques: VA3RIM, Ian Mellis reported that he has made 36 call sign plaques so far.

New Business:

Legion 10 Mile Road Race: VE3BBS, Skip Wright is looking for operators Monday, May 20, 1996.

Upcoming Elections: VE3UA, Jim O'Brien suggested that the inventory of Club assets be updated prior to the new slate of officers taking over.

Adjournment: moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

50/50 Draw: winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3XLB, Linda Bell

Following a short break, Brian Murphy and Kevin Everett from Environment Canada put on a seminar relating to their Weather Watch program. Brian pointed out that as of now, forecasts are written here in Thunder Bay rather than Winnipeg as has been done in the past. They rely heavily on spotters and volunteer weather watchers. Environment Canada is looking to form a partnership with such groups as the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

Brian explained how amateur radio helped out in a tornado watch in southern Ontario where they had a one hour notice of an approaching tornado. Following a video tape, he presented some overhead slides describing different weather conditions. They would also like to set up a 2m antenna at their office for our use and they will be prepared to put on a more extensive training session in the future. At present, the number to call to report a severe weather watch is 1-800-444-WARN. As soon as it is available, we will be given a local phone number that can be used through the autopatch on the repeaters.

Mr. Ed Speaks

by Ed, VE3SNW

I was engaged in some intelligent conversation with some fellow amateurs in a local eatery and some of the fellows were saying "the Club should do this" and "the Club should do that" and "how come the Club didn't get that done?"

I found myself nodding in agreement until a sudden realization made its way up from the murky depths of my brain. Those who know me will realize what a journey it must have been.

The realization was; the Club doesn't exist! Oh, sure, we have a

legal entity as an incorporated body but we all know that legal stuff and reality doesn't exist in the same universe. Except in courtrooms which are exempt from all natural laws.

Where does that leave us? What exactly is the real nature of the LARC? Well, I suppose the easiest way to describe it is we are a group of people engaged in a similar activity that come together occasionally to share ideas and resources.

The key word here is *people*. We are just a bunch of people. We like to

play with radios and annoy our neighbours with big antennas and TVI.

So, in fact, the Club can't do anything. Period. If you are waiting for the Club to do something, it will never happen. It takes a warm, breathing person to get something done.

And, you know the old saying...if you want something done right, you gotta do it yourself...

73—Ed, VE3SNW.

(Continued from page 6)

know who to call if something is not working right once he gets it built and up and running. It is Terry, for four years, the president of the LARC.

These projects and responsibilities must have produced a great amount of stress for Terry but he still had enough stamina to join with Larry 'Skip' Wright, VE3BBS to start a new business in January, 1996, called T & S Radio Electronics in Thunder Bay. Terry says that this is his final year as president of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

We can all understand Terry's decision because he is in need of some rest. He also needs some time to do the many other things that he wants to do.

Without Terry, the technical capabilities of the Club would not be what they are today. Every time that we use the repeaters, we can do so because of the technical skills of this man. This statement by itself would be a great thing but there is even more. Terry has freely given of himself in his own quiet way to give to the rest of us something to better our lives and he did so without any expectation of payment. He did it because he wanted to do it.

This story is one of the shorter ones that have been done about individuals who are members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and that is because Terry would not talk at length about what he has done. Terry is not the type of person who tells the whole world about his accomplishments. Because this story will be on the Internet, we will have to tell the world for him. So, on behalf of the members of our Club, Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA thank you for being a member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and thank you for doing all the things that you have done for us and we expect even more accomplishments from you in the years to come. 73—Ian, VA3RIM.

Custom Call Sign Plaques by Ian, VA3RIM

18-1/2" x 4-1/2" mahogany background with 2"
high x 3/4" thick pine lettering
with your own call sign.

Comes complete with hanging chain and hooks

\$15.00 in Thunder Bay

\$20.00 outside Thunder Bay (includes postage.)

TO ORDER:

Make cheque payable to the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
and mail to:

1100C Memorial Avenue, Suite 184
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3.

Enter your call sign in the spaces provided.
Please print! Allow 4 weeks for delivery out of town.

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T & S Radio Electronics

VE3TKA

Terry Stewardson

VE3BBS

Skip Wright

2052 Dawson Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 5E3

Tel: (807) 767-5224 Fax: 768-8164 Email: t&sradio@tbay.tel

FOR AMATEURS BY AMATEURS

Across from Five Mile School on Highway 102
at the Dawson Road Country Store

Blurb-OLAgram

by Don, VA3DPB and Dave, VA3DVE

From my shack window, it looks a little overcast, a light drizzle and a warm breeze from the south. From my shack window, I've been looking at this for the last seven days!

Perfect. The band is open! All 6 metre freaks are now M.I.A. (missing in action) until September. The band opened late this year. It started in the last two weeks of May. The above conditions made it just right to play on 6 and 10 metres on FM and SSB. We hope that local hams like VE3BHN, VE3FLB and our editor VA3ROM had time to get on and make a few contacts.

Dave and I don't have much to put forth in this month's OLAgram due to the band being OPEN! We did get a few questions about going mobile on 6 metres. Let's take a few lines on that topic, then you can all go and play and let us know how you did over the summer.

I guess the most important item on your list is the mobile antenna. Well, all you need is some kind of whip that measures 54 inches (1/4 wave on 6 metres). I use 2 types on my truck. The most popular is a 2 metre 5/8 wave antenna with a loaded coil. This antenna needs no adjustment. The overall length is around 54 inches and when not used as a 5/8 wave antenna on 2 metres it doubles as a 1/4 wave on 6 metres. The other antenna is a 5/8 wave loaded coil for 6 metres. Both are used on the old magmount. Try using Larsen or Maxrad or Turtletenna. All are very good and are sold locally. If you have any questions on these antennas, try VE3AJ, Bill for information. We got the above little secret from him 4 years ago when we started out and have been making contacts mobile all over the States.

The next item on the list is a 6 metre transceiver. Lots out there to pick from. The two most inexpensive

are the good old Telefunken FM and the Ramsey kits. We've used both and are on the top of our list. If you have some disposable funds, you may want to bug a Kenwood TS-60 or the ICOM 706 or the Yaesu FT-690 R-II.

There are also two Ten-Tec transverters on the market that run off of either HF or 2 metre rigs. I've heard VE3FLB, Rob on 6 SSB talking to a chap in Montana with his 8 watt transverter, mobile. Very impressive OM, hi, hi! Standard is making a 6/2/440 tribander mobile that should be on the market soon.

The latest item that I've seen is VE3RUE, Eric with his X-band (crossband) box. It's hooked up to his Telefunken via 2 metres. He uses his 2 metre handheld and crossbands onto 52.000-52.500 MHz FM and talks to South Carolina! We hope that Eric will send us a blackbox soon. If we can hook it up, all hams in the area will be able to get onto 6 FM via 2 metres (through the VA3OLA repeater).

When hooking up your power cord to the rig, we have found that it is best to go directly to the car battery. This will prevent any electronic engine noise from getting into the rig. Be sure that you have a good and clean ground connection.

Now you are all set. The best time to check for activity is around supper time till sunset. At present, VA3DVE, Dave is up north again in Armstrong. He has operated out of his truck in the area there in grid square EO50. He called me to let me know that he was having pileups in the evenings into North and South Carolina, Philadelphia, New Jersey and Mississippi. Don't worry about power. Most of the rigs put out around 5 to 20 watts. As VE3AJ would say: "It's all in the antenna, me boys." Have fun and will see you all in September.

73 from VA3DPB, Don and
VA3DVE, Dave.

It's now advised, that you connect directly to the battery posts and fuse both the positive and negative leads of your power cord as close as possible to the battery. Use a wire gauge that will handle the maximum current that the rig will draw. Also, you will have to arrange the power cord's path so that it is at right angles to the electronic wiring in the engine compartment. RF can affect air-bag detectors, ABS braking systems, fuel injection, digital instrument displays, etc.

As more and more onboard computer systems are added to vehicles, it will become more difficult, if not impossible, to work mobile, at least when the mobile is moving. Most owner's manuals recommend that you see your automotive dealer for advice on installing cellular phones and other radio devices. Better hang onto those old clunkers for as long as possible!

I would like to thank Don and Dave for putting the 6 metre bug into the area. I hope that they continue their contributions to HI-Q. All Basic licensees can work 6 metres and up, with or without a code endorsement. Why all this wasted effort in fighting the Morse code requirements to get on the HF bands? Many HFers are tired of BCI, RFI and TVI problems with the neighbours and are migrating to the VHF/UHF bands. With static, QRM, fighting off the kilowatt broadcast stations, antenna space and zoning restrictions, anyone starting out in the Amateur Radio Service would be better off building a VHF/UHF station. You even do VHF code, believe it or not! That's a primary mode for 2 and 6 metre weak signal, EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) and satellite work.

CQ VHF magazine is available to add more enjoyment to the world above 50 Mhz and is one of the best that I have ever read. You'll learn more about amateur radio and really enjoy it. Have a safe summer.—Ed.

Personality of the Month

by Ian, VA3RIM

Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA

Terry Stewardson was born on June 14, 1943 and is a member and currently the President of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, a position that he has held for the past four years.

Terry's early life started in Douglas, Manitoba [about twenty miles east of Brandon] on a large grain farm. He only stayed there for about a year because his father who was stationed at Camp Shilo with the army during the war moved back to Fort William, Ontario [now Thunder Bay]. His father eventually retired as a Master Mechanic from the City of Thunder Bay.

After graduating from high school at Selkirk Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Terry gained employment with the Imperial Optical Company where he learned the skills involved in the manufacturing of eye glasses. This job lasted for four or five years. Terry then went to work for Long and Eady, an optometrist office where he not only continued making glasses but now he started selling them. He wanted to learn more about his skilled trade so he enrolled in a home-study course from the Ryerson Institute of Technology in Toronto and after three years he graduated as an optician.

As a registered optician in the Province of Ontario, Terry opened a store in 1970 called *The Spectacle Shop* for the Imperial Optical Company. He stayed with this business for the next twenty-five years. During that period of time the parent company was taken over by Shorney's Optical Company but when it too was eventually taken over by yet a third company, Terry decided that it was time to leave the optical business and went into 'semi-retirement' in April, 1995. During the thirty-six years in the eye glass business, Terry was involved with the Rotary Club and the Chamber of

Commerce and also help raise two boys who are now thirty and twenty-eight years of age and have their own children. Yes, Terry is a grandfather.

Terry says that he has been interested in amateur radio for twenty years but when his brother-in-law Don Wright, VE3CAP got his licence, Terry decided to take the amateur radio course. He wrote and passed his examinations and was issued the callsign VE3TKA in the spring of 1990.

"Without Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA, the technical capabilities of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club would not be what they are today."

It was not long before Terry joined the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and for the past four years he has been the President of the Club.

Terry has accomplished a great deal during his tenure as president. Many people know how to use computers but from reliable sources within the club it is said that Terry is one of a very few people who knows how and why they operate. Because of this, it is Terry, who is especially involved in the operating and maintenance of the two amateur radio repeater stations that are operated by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. If something does not work properly, guess who hears about the problem and guess who probably has to fix it? As everyone knows, we all want the problems

solved quickly especially if someone else is doing it!

The packet radio repeater station is a prime example of Terry's technical expertise. A short time ago, Terry was having coffee with an amateur radio operator from Manitoba when the topic of packet radio was discussed. Terry decided that he would build a packet repeater for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. It was done mainly with his own money and of course he freely gave of his time. It is in his house where he pays his own electrical and heating bills. It is Terry who maintains the system because he is the only one who understands the computer. Once again if something goes wrong, guess who gets the call?

Another huge project that Terry has undertaken was the publication of the Northern Ontario Call Book, a compilation of all the amateur radio operators in northern Ontario by name, address, telephone number and amateur radio callsign. Guess who had to setup the computer files and assure their accuracy? The first callbook, two years ago, was not enough of a problem because he undertook to update the callbook with another edition in 1996. This time, to earn some extra money for the club, he undertook to physically cut the pages and bind them together. Of course he had a few friends helping him but if the information is not correct or if pages are missing or not in the correct order, guess who gets told and guess who has to correct the problem?

There are probably many other things that Terry has done for the members of our Club. He does not talk much about his deeds but we all know who got the parts for the duplexers for the Upsala repeater and who is putting them together in his basement. Of course we will a

(Continued on page 4)

Field Day Map

1. Fill gas tank (40 km to camp) about 45 minutes, mostly on blacktop.

2. Starting from the traffic lights at Red River Rd., drive west 6.2 km and turn left onto Dog Lake Rd. at the Emerald Greens golf course.

3. Drive north on highway 589 (Dog Lake Rd.) for 11.1 km until you reach the Lappe General Store (last chance to buy anything). Store opens at 10 a.m., I think. A sign saying VE3FW will be there. Turn left onto highway 591 and drive 1.9 km and turn right at the VE3FW sign.

4. Drive north on blacktop and **stay on the blacktop for 13.7 km** (wave to the QTH of VE3BBS as you pass the Boy Scout Rd.) but keep heading north until you reach a large brown billboard type sign saying 'HAWKEYE LAKE CAMPERS ASSOC.' A VE3FW sign will point the way. The blacktop ends here for about 4 km because Norm, VE3XRC ran out of money. Stay on the gravel where the blacktop would have been if VE3XRC had finished his job.

You might not be able to hit VE3YQT from here to the camp so talk about Norm and keep your eyes on the road! Drive for 6.1 km. You will hit blacktop again. **Stay on it!** You will find that you will come to a big hill going up (go down when going home, Norm).

Heads up! Not far now! You will soon

see Dog Lake straight ahead and at the bottom of the hill, curving to the left, you will see the highway road sign saying 'BALDUC BAY ROAD' and our own VE3FW sign. Hang a hard **right** turn. A few hundred feet from here you will cross a small bridge over a creek.

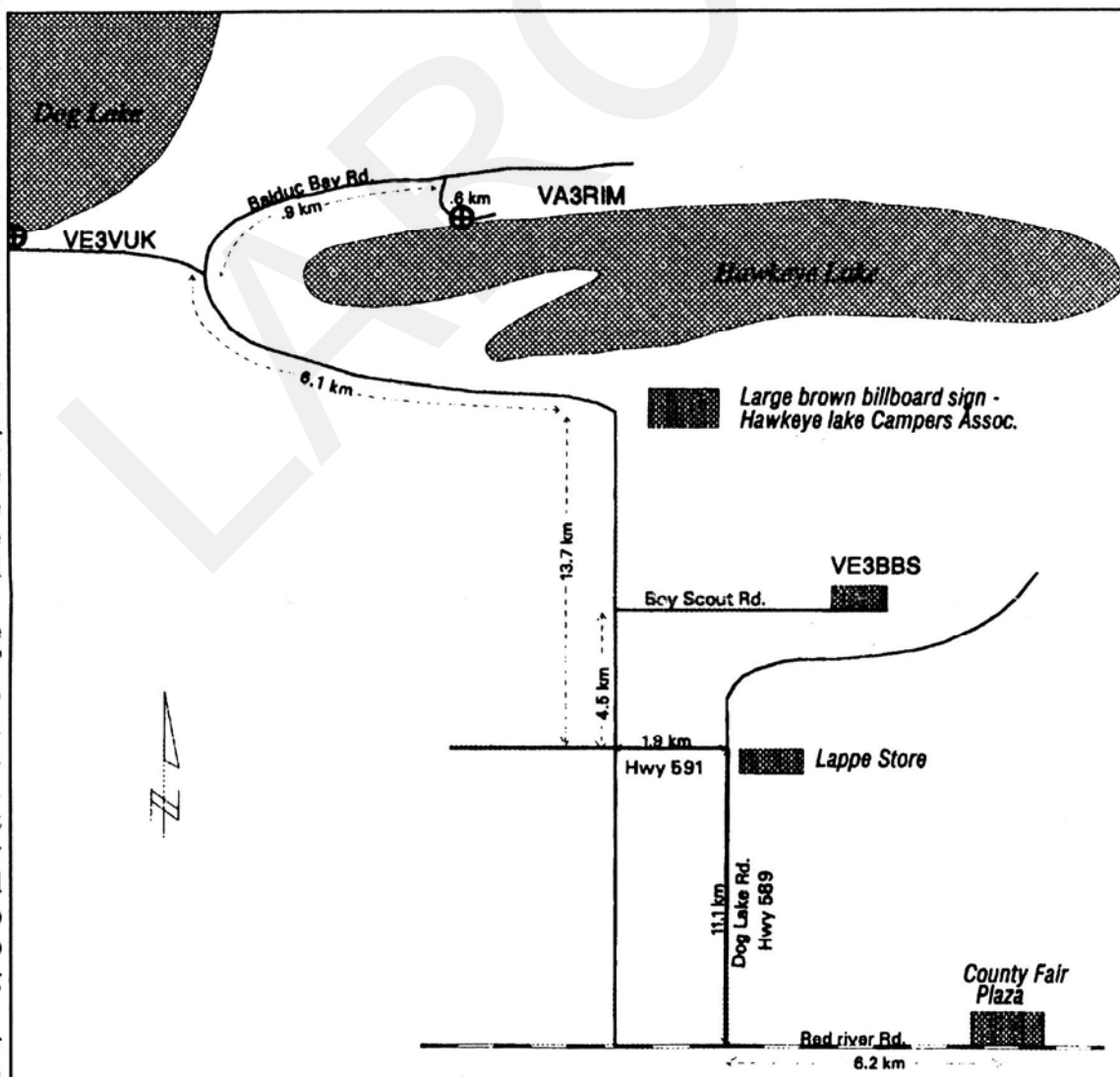
Stop on the bridge. Look to your right down the creek. Gorgeous! Now, get off of the bridge and drive 0.9 km to the first and **only** road that turns right. (I will leave my truck here. Black and gray with an antenna on the roof and black cap on the back). Follow the road in. You cannot get lost now. **Don't** turn right at the first turnoff. **Go down the hill. We are to the**

right. First camp. Same colour of camp as the VE3FW signs that you have been following. Either drive down or go to the end, park and walk back.

5. Best not to launch a boat. I have an aluminum canoe for fishing. Excellent beach for swimming. Lots of room if it rains or snows! **Bring food and drink! Fly dope, sun block, lifejackets, etc.**

6. Find your nearest government representative or Norm and get rid of your driving fatigue (make it up if you have to). **Now it's time for over 24 hours of fun!**

73—Ian, VA3RIM.



Morsum Codex

To the nay-sayers regarding code, I thought I would share this excerpt from the January issue of *Key Note*, the newsletter of F.I.S.T.S., the International Morse Preservation Society. It contains a summary of an interesting talk by Rod Deakin, a professional CW operator at KFS, the Globe Wireless Company marine station here in California. The article was originated by K8MEG and first appeared in *Boat Anchor News*. K8MEG wrote:

"First, CW is emphatically not dead. The Coast Guard (and Navy) has phased it out and U.S. ships don't use it (in the safety service) but there are about 150,000 ships around the world and most of them still use CW. U.S. ships are about 11% of them, so maybe 89% of the ships in the world use CW."

"(KFS has) perhaps 50 shore based CW operators with stations on the West Coast, and somewhat more on the East Coast. Marine CW may not go on forever but the end is not in sight."

I thought those were interesting comments coming from a pro who knows. The article goes on to note that this professional uses a bug or paddle, no keyboard generated CW. CW ops are typically at 18-25 wpm. The shore ops are very skilled and got that skill from practice largely because they enjoy CW. It says that "many of the ship operators are awful" operating CW because they get paid for it, making little attempt to actually be good at it! Typically, a pro operator works a 4 hour shift and handles about 50 messages.

I enjoyed this article in *Key Note* and thought I would share these things with you. It's great to hear the professionals certainly don't think code is dead on their end of the bands!

73—Jay, AC6GR
FISTS #2097

For more info on FISTS write to: Nancy Kott, WZ8C, P.O. Box 47 Hadley, MI 48440-0047 USA.

Morse code has only been removed from the SOLAS (Safety Of Ships and Lives at Sea) international safety service. Distress communications are usually more effectively handled by VHF, HF voice and SATCOM.

However, the new Global Maritime Satellite Safety Service is only applicable to vessels over 300 tons. (Only about 20 percent of all vessels in Canada meet or exceed this weight. The rest don't have to comply and can still use the current system.) The satellite equipped vessels will no longer have to maintain a listening watch on the international safety and guard frequencies. Which means, that in the future, vessels using the new system will not be able to hear a distress call from a vessel that maintains a guard and uses the safety frequencies. Hopefully, coast stations will still maintain the old till everyone is on the new satellite system.

When the CCGS Louis St. Laurent and the USCGS Polar Sea went to the North Pole in the summer of '95, the only communications with the outside world that could get through was good old Morse code!

Perhaps, by 2010, the Internet will be the global communications system in use. When ANIK-E went down, the Internet was pressed into service as a backup. Satellites are easy targets to hit or jam, hard to repair and very expensive. That's why the military developed the Internet! Like a spider's web, it can survive.

The Internet is cheap, global, hard to shutdown and becoming available to everyone, everywhere. But, for tens of thousands, code will live on till we all QRT. And, that could be for another 100 years. (The youngest 20 wpm YL sparker is only 10!)—Ed.

The Meaning of 73

From the June, 1980, High-Q, submitted by Jim, VE3UA.

To add to the many reports on the origin of the telegraphic term 73, Louise Moreau, telegraph authority and historian has a few more.

Through her research, she uncovered the fact that it was devised as a telegraphers toast to Andrew Carnegie on his 73rd birthday (1908). But this proved to be erroneous as the term 73 was already in use by that date.

The story that it was used as a secret sign by members of the Railroad Telegraph Union was similarly disproved because the term was used before 1909, the beginning of the Railroad Telegraph Union.

The theory that it was used in the early west, referring to the Winchester 73 rifle (railway telegraphers' best friend in the Wild West days) was discounted when it was proven that Winchester did not even make a 73 model of gun when 73 was in regular use in telegraphic circuits.

Mrs. Moreau found, through authentic sources, that even in 1853, the signal was in use but, at that time, it meant "My love to you." In the 1859 Western Union 92 code of phrases for operator use, 73 meant "Accept my compliments." but, by 1908, after various changes, it assumed the present day meaning of "Best Regards."

Here's another bit of Morse code trivia. Samuel F.B. Morse's first message was not "What hath God wrought?" Does someone else know what was the first message?—Ed.